



One worker dead after ammonia leak at Boston warehouse

Posted: Mar 23, 2016 6:53 PM EDT

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Reported by Tim Caputo [CONNECT](#)

BOSTON (WHDH) - Officials continue to investigate after a worker was killed after an ammonia leak at a warehouse in Boston.

At around 5:55 p.m. on Wednesday, emergency crews responded to the Stavis Seafoods Warehouse at 7 Channel St. for a reported ammonia leak, according to the Boston Fire Department.

Despite full gear, responders were at first unable to enter the facility.

Crews were later able to enter the building to get four employees out safely, but they found the victim's body on the second floor by the stairs.

By 9:20 p.m., crews had stopped the leak.

Around 5,300 pounds of the chemical leaked into the building.

Area businesses and residences were ordered to shelter in place during the incident.

A medical examiner will determine how the person died, according to the fire department.

In a statement, Stavis Seafoods CEO Richard Stavis said:

"We were devastated to learn that one of our warehouse employees has died as a result of the ammonia leak at a Stavis Seafoods warehouse. We are not releasing any further information until the employee's family has been notified. We are thankful that four employees who were in the building at the time were able to quickly and safely evacuate. We want to understand exactly what happened and will of course cooperate with all authorities in their investigation."



Boston Fire Dept.
@BostonFire

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Firefighters unable to make entry to the area where the ammonia shutoff is. This is a very large cold storage facility.

6:53 PM - 23 Mar 2016

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Worker Killed In Seaport District Ammonia Leak

March 23, 2016 10:30 PM

Filed Under: [ammonia leak](#), [Brian Caron](#), [Stavis Seafoods](#)

BOSTON (CBS) – An employee at a seafood company has died after an ammonia leak inside a warehouse in the city's Seaport District.

Boston Fire responded to the Stavis Seafoods warehouse at 7 Channel Street at about 6 p.m. Wednesday.

The leak occurred at the end of the shift for the workers at the warehouse.

"Our first companies on the scene made entry to try to save one of the workers but they were pushed back by the product, the ammonia," Boston Fire Chief John Walsh said.

The victim, identified only as an adult male, was found in a stairwell.



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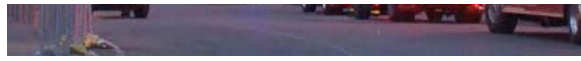


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Firefighters respond to ammonia leak at Stavits Seafoods in South Boston (WBZ-TV)

Four other workers who were in the building were able to evacuate.

The leak prompted a Level 3 Hazmat response and firefighters wore fully encapsulated suits when they entered the building.

The ammonia leak was stopped when firefighters shut down the main valve several hours after they arrived at the warehouse.



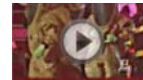
Hazmat crews at ammonia leak in Seaport District (WBZ-TV)

Officials do not know how the leak started.

Boston Police Commissioner William Evans says homicide detectives and OSHA are investigating the incident.

In a statement, Stavits Seafoods said they were “devastated” and they were working with authorities to understand what happened.

While the leak was still active, police shut down several streets and told nearby residents and businesses to shelter in place.



Peabody Man Killed In Ammonia Leak At Seafood Warehouse



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Authorities say a worker died in an ammonia leak from a seafood warehouse in the Seaport District in south Boston



Firefighters respond to an ammonia leak at seafood warehouse in the Seaport District in south Boston, Wednesday, March 23, 2016. (Stuart Cahill/The Boston Herald via AP) BOSTON GLOBE OUT; METRO BOSTON OUT; MAGS OUT; ONLINE OUT; MANDATORY CREDIT

Associated Press | March 23, 2016, at 11:16 p.m.

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AP

BOSTON (AP) — One worker died in an ammonia leak Wednesday at a seafood warehouse in the Seaport District in south Boston, authorities said.

Fire officials said the man was inside the warehouse but emergency responders were unable to reach him initially because of the strong fumes when they arrived at Stavis Seafoods Warehouse after receiving reports of a leak about 6 p.m. Wednesday.

"They were pushed back by the product, the ammonia," Boston Fire Chief of Operations John Walsh told WCVB television station.

The leak was reported near the end of a work shift when employees began noticing a strong odor and saw a leak coming from the plant.

"It's a very large ammonia leak inside of a cold storage facility used for seafood processing," Boston Fire Department spokesman Steve MacDonald told the Boston Herald.

Fire officials said it was coming from a 5,400-pound tank, but they didn't know how much ammonia had escaped before the main valve was shut off and the leak stopped. A hazmat team wearing protective suits stopped the leak within hours.

Ammonia is used as a refrigerant.

Richard Stavis, CEO of Stavis Seafoods, said company officials were devastated to learn that a warehouse employee had died and that they would work with authorities on their investigation.

"We are thankful that four employees who were in the building at the time were able to quickly and safely evacuate," he said in a statement.

Stavis said the employee who died would not be identified until his family had been notified.

Walsh said the public wasn't in danger. But as a precaution, nearby streets were closed off and business people and residents were advised to shelter in place or stay away from the area.

A strong smell of ammonia wafted over parts of the Seafood District.

The medical examiner is to determine the cause of death.

Fire officials didn't immediately return a call Wednesday night for further details.

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The Boston Globe

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2016



SCOTT EISEN FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Worker found dead during ammonia leak

A Boston Fire Department hazmat crew was unable to reach a fallen worker during an ammonia leak Wednesday night at a Stavis Seafoods warehouse in South Boston. All other employees were accounted for. Workers said the building holds about 5,300 pounds of ammonia. **B1.**

PAGE 1

Worker dead at seafood plant

Crews respond to ammonia leak

By Travis Andersen

GLOBE STAFF

and Olivia Arnold
and Rachel Riley

GLOBE CORRESPONDENTS

A worker was found dead inside a Stavis Seafoods warehouse in South Boston Wednesday night by a Boston Fire Department hazmat crew that responded to a report of an ammonia leak at the facility, fire officials said.

The victim, an adult male, was not identified. He was found on the second floor of the facility near the stairwell, said Fire Chief of Operations John Walsh.

The leak was reported at the end of the shift for employees at the warehouse, and there were five or six employees inside at the time, Walsh said. All other employees have been accounted for, officials said.

Firefighters initially tried to rescue the victim but could not reach him, Steve MacDonald, a fire department spokesman, said at the scene.

"They made a valiant effort, but they were pushed back by the ammonia," he said.

ACCIDENT, Page B8

B1

Worker dead in South Boston ammonia leak

► ACCIDENT

Continued from Page B1

Crews had trouble accessing the building because of the overwhelming smell, Walsh said. But firefighters were able to shut off the main valve and stop the ammonia leak, Boston Fire tweeted at 9:21 p.m.

The worker was pronounced dead at the scene, MacDonald said.

"It's obviously a tragic incident," MacDonald said.

MacDonald said investigators are working to determine the cause of the leak. Employees indicated that the building holds about 5,300 pounds of ammonia, according to MacDonald.

He said the investigation into the leak and death is being conducted by the Fire Department, Boston police homicide unit, and Suffolk District Attorney Daniel F. Conley's office.

Foul play is not suspected in the death, Police Commissioner



SCOTT EISEN FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Fire officials at the Stavix Seafoods warehouse in Boston Wednesday,

William B. Evans said at the scene.

MacDonald said he was unsure whether there were prior safety issues at the building, though he was not aware of any.

Officials from the state medical examiner's office, who will conduct an autopsy on the vic-

tim, arrived on scene shortly after 9 p.m.

Firefighters and the hazmat crew expected to remain on the scene late into Wednesday. "We're going to be here a while," Walsh said.

Firefighters first responded just before 6 p.m. to a report of the leak at the warehouse locat-

ed at 7 Channel St., the department reported in a Tweet.

A level 3 hazmat situation soon was declared, meaning that any firefighter entering the cold storage facility had to wear "fully encapsulated suits on air," the department tweeted.

"Firefighters unable to make entry to the area where the ammonia shutoff is. This is a very large cold storage facility," Boston fire department tweeted.

Boston police issued a traffic advisory stating that parts of Summer and D streets were closed to traffic. Motorists and pedestrians were asked to avoid the area, the department wrote in a Tweet.

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